

This is the first action for application serial number 10/543,102, Articulated Support Assembly, filed January 26, 2006. Claims 1-14 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed July 22, 2005 has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 40. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 2 of paragraph [0019], "clams" should be changed to –clamps–.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,179,262 to Ellard et al. The present invention reads on Ellard as follows: Ellard teaches an assembly comprising a lockable support assembly (22), stepping head clamping lock (14) and a plurality of joints (62, including 56 and 36). The lockable support assembly is connected to the stepping head clamping lock and selectively releasably connectable to a stationary object for allowing multi-planar orthogonal manipulation of a device into a position with respect a plane of said stationary object. The plurality of joints is connected to the lockable support assembly that allows multi-planar orthogonal movement. The articulated support assembly comprises a removable stepping head assembly. See US patent 5,871,448 which is an incorporated reference in the current reference. The lockable support assembly includes at least one support arm (78). The at least one support arm is connected to a joint of the plurality of joints.

The support arm includes at least one position lock (74). The at least one position lock prevents vertical movement when engaged. The at least one position lock prevents horizontal movement when engaged. The at least one position lock prevents movement of when engaged. The at least one support arm includes at least one stationary object lock (32,30). The at least one stationary object lock is a clamp lock. The removable stepping head assembly further comprises a fine adjustment assembly (see 5,871,448). The removable stepping head assembly further comprises-a pitch lock (see 5,871,448). The removable stepping head assembly receives the device. The device is a medical device.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Metelski 6,364,268; Smed 6,695,270; and Thiessen 7,325,777 teach a plurality joint assembly.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gwendolyn Baxter whose telephone number is 571-272-6814. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday, 8:30am -3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571-272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gwendolyn Baxter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3632
June 7, 2008